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Nation

Kahnawake Pow-wow

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INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Canadian Aboriginal world has a new National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. I wish that it could really mean something to me. It used to mean something to me. I'm not talking about the fact that incumbent Matthew Coon Come lost or that Roberta Jamison didn't become the first woman to take the lead for Aboriginal Canadians. I'm not even talking about the fact that Phil Fountaine will be walking the corridors of power and politics on Parliament hill with a hopeful smile on his face.

It's the fact that it is all an illusion. It is an illusion that there is or ever will be a hope that the Native Peoples in Canada will ever achieve meaningful or real self-government in any form.

Look at it. Is the AFN a meaningful lobby group? Coon Come calls Canada racist at a UN meeting and arrives back in Canada to find the Canadian government has unilaterally slashed his budget in half. The Canadian government's message- "Bad, bad Indian. Now you pay for making your great White Father look bad. You damn fools really thought that there was free speech that included you?"

That was when I knew that the days of being a ward of the state weren't really over and wouldn't be for a long time to come.

Take Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault... please. Burlesque joke intended seriously but look at his actions. Coon Come was right to call his government racist. He has introduced legislation that affects a race that has not been allowed to take a hand in crafting that legislation. Thus it becomes fundamentally flawed. The fact that it might even contain good points in it means nothing. It becomes another piece of paper shoved down the throats of Aboriginal people whether they like it or not by the dominant society.

The entire leadership of the First Nations, all elect chiefs are against it.

Nault and his people don't care. They know what's good for the Indian in this land and they expect use to get down on our knees and praise god they have picked up the Whiteman's burden once again.

All illusions that Native self-government or governance is real lies shattered on the floor. We have no choice but to accept what Nault thinks is good for us.

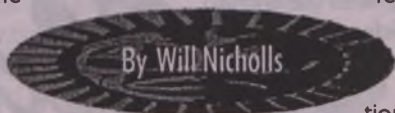
What we think is good for us does not matter and never has. At Nault fingertips lies the power to put any band into third party management based on deficit limits that no non-Native community has to adhere to. He has the power to crush any law or by-law that Aboriginal communities create.

Native governments are and continue to be something that was created by the federal government. As such they are flawed as they did not come from the native people that have to use them. This form of government will continue to be flawed as long as they are used.

And yes, they are able to be abused by those in power, Native and non-Native. There is corruption on both sides of the balance sheet. But to enact legislation on Governance is nothing more than a red herring.

Natives will fight because they have to in order to protect their rights. In the meantime Canada has dropped to eighth place in the world because of the continuation of native poverty. This has continued for decade upon decade. The deplorable conditions of Native housing remain unchanged also. The economic conditions upon reserves continue unabated. The residential school problem remains with us. Yet we have to fight a piece of paper.

Native self government... whose definition.



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Kahnawake Pow Wow

Photographer:

Will Nicholls

Cover Design:

Mona Violette

THE JECKLES AND HYDES OF ELECTION TIME

Here I go again, writing about elections that seem to happen every other month or so. This time around it's a local election, regional election and national election. Just my luck! Lately I've been ducking in and out of voting booths and choosing the unfortunate; I haven't chosen a winner yet. It's kind of like betting at the race tracks, when you hear who's running and you choose the winners before the race starts. At the end of the election, you either lose or win. I've never really bet cash, though, just the hope that some underdog will win, just to give them a chance at running the wild side of the country. It's not like some city slicker running in votes that run in the millions or so of urbanites who dwell in the cities. Nope, it's Indian politics and it's election time, folks. Cast your vote for your family.

The winning candidate, of course, goes on to become chief or CEO of large native organizations (that seem to number many across the country, thank God). Up here where I am, the local election for chief and council was sadly postponed due to a standoff for the nominations and when nominations whizzed by on schedule, the voting began in earnest. Somehow, some voters cast their votes on mistakenly printed ballots (no hanging chads here) and were called back to cast their votes a few days later. I went to recast my vote and found out that my vote was ok. Huh? I thought the votes were cast in secret. The knowledge of who I voted for (the underdog) is known. Wow.

My confidence shattered, I thought that I could not ever cast a vote again and then the regional votes were cast for Chair of the CSB. Round one elimination and round two to go. At the time of writing, votes were almost even for the finalists. It goes to show that voters are split in loyalties and again, it's a Winibegeyou vs. a Nouchmieyou. Will wonders never cease?

I tried to get live coverage at the national elections to follow the events, but I guess I'll just have to make do with my imagination (fiction) due to my very limited travel budget (\$0.00). I cruised the Net and discovered that Matthew got a bruising and was eliminated in the first round of voting. It was Jamieson vs Fontaine, the "grey fox" of Indian politics. Around 9:30 or so I learned that Jamieson was out and Fontaine was in. No hoopla here, just another election where our candidate lost. Sorry Mathew but perhaps next time it will be a peoples' choice, instead of the chiefs' vote. Maybe it will be called the assembly of first nations peoples, instead of just nations.

Thinking about next time, if you really want to win the nationals (I'm speaking to anybody and everybody) the following criteria are necessary elements of what makes a winning candidate:

1. Must be Aboriginal and come from a small community where life was hard, but good.
 2. Must have a good legal background, if not a lawyer already (you gotta be smarter than the government lawyers).
 3. Must have shook hands with the Minister of Indian Affairs.
 4. Must know the provincial cabinet by first name.
 5. Must have run the organization for years as CEO (optional but seems to work) before deciding to run as number one.
 6. Must be able and willing to work long odd hours and travel incessantly.
 7. Must be able to hide at any given moment from aboriginal newshounds and appear everywhere else on TV.
 8. Must be able to pronounce unilaterally multi-legalistic jargon from a tel-eprompter without tripping or salivating.
- Alas, the elections continue, as we exercise our rights to chose who we wish to lead us into the next half decade or so, we somehow always seem to not vote.

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EDITORIAL BOARD
N. Diamond, W. Nicholls, L. Stewart

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Jennifer Westlake
Danielle Valade

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

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5505 ST-LAURENT, #3018
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PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE
5647 PARC AVE. P.O. BOX 48036
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EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

ADS- VAL D'OR-CHIBOUGAMAU REGION
TEL.: 514-285-8986

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
Editorial: nation@beesum.ca
Ads: sales@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds:

beesum@beesum-communications.com
Web: www.beesum-communications.com

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Nation

COON COME LOSES RE-ELECTION BID

After the ballots yesterday at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, were cast, we welcomed a new National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, or should we say former National Chief Phil Fontaine has returned. Fontaine took it on the second ballot, getting 60.9 per cent of the vote. AFN voting rules state that to be National Chief, a candidate must get at least 60 per cent of the vote. On the first ballot, Phil Fontaine received 52 per cent, Robert Jamieson 30 per cent and incumbent National Chief Matthew Coon-Come received a disappointing 19 per cent of vote of the 566 First Nations Chiefs voting. The election then went to a run-off race between Phil Fontaine and Roberta Jamieson, with Coon-Come throwing his support behind Jamieson. Fontaine ran on a platform of restored relations with the federal government and open negotiations between First Nations and Indian Affairs concerning the proposed Aboriginal Governance Act.

The AFN National Chief is the political liaison between Canadian Aboriginal communities and the federal government. This role has been key ever since Minister Robert Nault introduced controversial new legislation in the form of the First Nations Governance Act. Both Roberta Jamieson and Matthew Coon-Come opposed this legislation as a throwback to the infamous white paper of 1969 that sought to extinguish Aboriginal rights in Canada and throw out the Indian Act. Back then, thanks to efforts of many, including Harold Cardinal, the Indian Nations of Canada united in opposition to the bill and brought forth a Red Paper. The then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau shelved the White Paper and began a forging a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples that would eventually lead to Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution recognizing, affirming and entrenching the rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada from future extinguishments without their consent.

Then National Chief Matthew Coon-Come and the Assembly of First Nations reviewed the First Nations Governance Act and saw it as a throwback – seeking extinguishments of substantial Aboriginal rights without consent of the peoples it would

most directly impact. In a speech in Durban, South Africa, last year at the World Conference on Racism, National Chief Matthew Coon-Come laid it out before the world that extinguishments and gross violations of human rights against Aboriginal peoples were not a thing of the past in Canada but of the present. This was the beginning of the end of his relationship as liaison, as he returned to Canada to find the government had slashed his budget and resources in half.

In the past year and most recently, Minister Nault has made it obvious who he did not want to return as National Chief and implied an ominous message that future relations and funding could possibly suffer.

Chief Roberta Jamieson, Canada's first Aboriginal woman lawyer, also took a contrary position to the First Nations Governance Act.

Instead, she advocated building a nation of strong, young Aboriginal leaders and institutions that are under the control of the First Nations and consistent with their culture and values. Chief Jamieson vowed to continue her opposition to the First Nations Governance Act on Parliament Hill despite the election results. Matthew Coon-Come, when throwing his support behind Jamieson for the second ballot, said that Phil Fontaine's plan was one of "dependency, of hopelessness" and was akin to Moses leading his people back into slavery.

National Chief Phil Fontaine entered the race saying that "he was concerned over the way that our First Nations issues have become marginalized as a result of the AFN squandering opportunities to engage in meaningful discussion and negotiation." National Chief Fontaine rebuked the AFN for protesting and confronting the Canadian government – he believes that this is, in effect, "giving up our voice."

Fontaine's message was "I learned early on that we must never negotiate from fear but we must never fear to negotiate."

In his victory speech Fontaine added that "our strength comes from unity." And he promised to reconcile relations with the federal government, strengthen the Assembly of First Nations and work on the AFN's overall credibility.



By Nation Staff

CSB run-off election

The election for chairperson of the Cree School Board, held July 10, settled very little.

There were six eligible candidates running for the post, with no one receiving more than 29 per cent of the vote.

As a result, a run-off election is scheduled to take place July 31. Advance polls will be open in Cree communities on Monday, July 28.

The top two candidates, William Mianscum and the incumbent Mabel Herodier, will square off for chairperson of the CSB.

They received 28 per cent and 29 per cent of the vote respectively, of a total of 2060 votes.

The term of office as chairperson is for three years.

To be eligible, one must be a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, be of the age of majority (18 years of age by July 10, 2003), and not be affected by any legal incapacity.

One of the bolder predictions by Herodier is that she wants to double the success rate of Cree students to a 30 per cent graduation rate by 2007. She then hopes to double that figure to 60 per cent two years later. Needless to say, she has her work cut out for her.

Herodier says her record over the last three years speaks for itself. Through her leadership, the board was able to:

- Get approval for a new Cree Regional Vocational Training Centre, which is slated to be built in 2005.
- Introduce a "pedagogically-driven budget." Setting the guidelines for spending for principals, education services, and the finance department.
- Partnership in the Apatisiwiin agreement to assist 150 Cree in securing well-paying jobs with Hydro Quebec.

As ex-Chief of Mistissini, as well as ex-commissioner of the CSB, Mianscum has a fair amount of political experience. Unfortunately, he could not be reached for comment.

For more information on the election, please contact John Henry Wapachee, Chief Returning Officer at 819-673-2182.

In a letter

You guys have done an amazing job on the editorial of Busy in OJ on page 5. However, there is a slight mistake made regarding the list of children in the walking out ceremony for the children. Steven Diamond..... Steven is actually a girl and it's not Steven, it's Seven Chantay Diamond.

Ed note: thanks for the heads up.

Telebec

Customer Service Representative Permanent - Val-d'Or

JOB SUMMARY

The Customer Service Representative will work in a fast-paced call centre environment taking in-bound calls from residential customers. He/she will be responsible for answering queries about products, service, billing, complaints, and other company related information. The incumbent will also be responsible for generating revenues by promoting and selling the company's products and services at every opportunity.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Secondary school degree and/or an equivalent combination of education and related experience.
- Experience in a customer service environment is an asset
- Previous sales experience is an asset.
- Knowledge of Télébec on-line systems an asset
- Knowledge of Télébec products & services an asset
- Bilingualism (English/Cree and or French/Cree)

SKILLS

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent telephone skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including: listening, probing, questioning, negotiating and conflict resolution skills
- Sound problem-solving and decision making skills
- Good keyboarding skills essential
- Computer experience with Microsoft Word is an asset
- Excellent planning and organizational skills required

ABILITY

- To work different shifts and to work extra hours as required, on short notice, to meet customer commitments.
- Although part of a team, ability to work independently, with minimal supervision
- Work in a fast paced, continually changing call centre environment
- Provide quality service and ensure total customer satisfaction at all times
- Successfully complete initial five to six week training session as well as any other training programs required by the position

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package and are committed to the principles of employment equity.

Applicants should email their resumes to nkelly@telebec.com or mail them to the following address by August 15, 2003:

Télébec
Director general First Nations Business Relations
555, ave Centrale
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 1P6

Tel.: 1-800-567-6485 ext.7000

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JOB POSTING



Nadoshtin Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Nadoshtin Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program (ACHP) is seeking a full-time Program Coordinator. The Program is designed to carry out Cree research, training and education in three areas—Archaeology, Traditional Values and Knowledge, and Burial Sites—in the area affected by the Eastmain-1 project.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direction of the Director of Traditional Pursuits of the CRA, and in collaboration with the Archaeological and Ethnographic Coordinators, the Program Coordinator will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 1) Oversee general operations of the ACHP, including:
 - develop budgets, manage finances, prepare and implement work plans and prepare annual reports;
 - coordinate activities of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee;
 - coordination with outside agencies, including the SEBJ.
- 2) Ensure planning and execution of ACHP activities, including:
 - on-the-land visits, ethnographic and archaeological research, identification and commemoration of Cree burial sites, development of communication and education materials.

The Coordinator work closely with, and implement the recommendations of, the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee. He / she may wish to participate in some program activities such as interviewing elders, archaeological excavations and developing communication products.

Place of Work

To be determined.

Salary and Conditions

Based on qualifications and experience.

Qualifications

- Experience in managing projects, including finances, scheduling, and personnel;
- Fluency in Cree and English, with good writing skills; knowledge of French will be an asset.
- An interest in Cree culture and history, and in working with elders;
- Secondary V diploma, and preferably DEC (Cégep Diploma) or higher; and
- Computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheet software;

Additional assets include previous work in cultural heritage projects; college courses in Native Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, or related fields; and knowledge of media, including video, audio, or photography.

Although this post is open to members of all Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee, special consideration will be given to candidates from the signatory communities to the Nadoshtin Agreement (Eastmain, Nemaska, Mistissini, and Waskaganish).

To Apply

Please submit a letter expressing your interest in this position, and a full description of relevant experience and qualifications, with contact information for three references, to the following:

Mr. Willie Iserhoff
Director, Traditional Pursuits
Cree Regional Authority
Nemaska, Québec J0Y 3B0

Tel.: 819-673-2600
Fax: 819-673-2606

Applications must be received by August 15, 2003.

For more information on this position, contact David Denton at the CRA Archaeology office (819-825-9603, ddenton@lino.com).



LOST CREE BROTHER, FOUND

In life, we encounter many inspirational people and their amazing stories. As native people, we tend to deal with a fair amount of difficulty in our everyday life, but that is part of what makes our feelings of joy that much stronger. We are very familiar with hardship, and unfortunately some of us have even come to expect it.

Then along comes someone like Albert Leclerc. Leclerc was taken away from his mother by his father to live in Ste. Therese when he was just a baby. Living in Chibougamau was deemed "too dangerous" for baby Albert, especially since he had fallen ill. His father, Albert Sr., wanted him to be in a place where he'd have a warm house to live in, and wouldn't be exposed to the harsh elements of the north.

Leclerc's mother, Helen Shecapio of Mistissini, agreed to let the baby boy go to Montreal until he got better. Little did she know, she would never see him again.

Growing up, Leclerc knew by the colour of his skin that he was different, but every time someone brought it up they were told to "be quiet."

He was proud of the way he looked: dark skin, dark hair, and dark eyes. The kids at school would call him "le sauvage" and despite not knowing about much of his heritage, he remained proud, never doubting himself for one minute.

At one point, he referred to himself as the "Indian from Ste. Therese."

Albert Leclerc Jr., also known by his birth name Edward Shecapio, lived a lonely life. He didn't have any brothers or sisters, and very few people he could call friends.

Many Christmases and birthdays were spent alone.

He eventually married Mary Fitzpatrick, a blonde haired, blue-eyed Scottish woman. She also had a similar situation, growing up with only one sister. When her sister passed away five years ago, Albert and Mary were left to wonder "why us?"

Then, on June 27, 2003, life as they knew it changed. Leclerc received a phone call from a mysterious woman. She asked him

a lot of personal questions, and could hardly contain her excitement when she heard the answers.

He wasn't sure what this woman was about, but he stayed on the line knowing deep down that this may be the call he was waiting for his whole life.

It turned out the caller, Irene Mianscum, was his grand niece, and she was calling in hopes of reuniting her great uncle with his sister, Charlotte Wapachee. Leclerc, needless to say, was beside himself.

Mianscum had been searching for the past two years on the Internet, trying to locate her great uncle.

After speaking on the phone for a couple of hours, neither of them wanting to hang up, they decided that Albert had to meet his family- the sooner the better!

On July 7, he finally met his sister Charlotte, after 65 long, painful, and lonely years.

"I couldn't believe it, that was the first time I had so many people cheering for me," said Leclerc upon arriving at the bus station.

The reunion couldn't have gone any better. Almost all of Senneterre's Cree population were on hand to greet this man, their long lost Cree brother.

He became a hero of sorts on that warm summer's day.

"Everyone was so happy, and even the men had tears in their eyes," according to his grand niece, Irene. "It was amazing!"

Now that the two siblings have been reunited, there are plans to get together again, very soon. A family member's wedding scheduled in August is the next time the family will see him, although they might not be able to wait that long.

"I always knew I had a brother, but never did I think that I'd meet him one day," said Charlotte.

Albert Leclerc/Edward Shecapio now has a family that totals around 152, spanning four generations, and is content in knowing that he'll never have to spend another Christmas alone ever again.

By Steve Bonspiel

Hydro quebec encounters problems in Chisasibi

There are a large number of people in Chisasibi who are refusing to pay their electricity bills, according to Michel Lemay, spokesperson for Hydro Quebec.

Although details are being worked out with the band council right now and couldn't be elaborated on, the actual money owed is well into the millions.

Some people have refused to pay for as far back as seven years.

Lemay feels that one thing they can do to improve the situation is to give the community more information about Hydro Quebec's mission in the north. He also feels having the office in Chisasibi open more often, with longer hours is another part of the solution.

Despite non-payment by an unspecified number of individuals, there are no plans in the foreseeable future to cut anyone's electricity.

"We prefer discussion, which is what we are doing now with the band council," according to Lemay.

Payment plans for those who have delinquent accounts are available, and suited to fit each individual's budget.

The reasons why people don't pay range from flat out not wanting to, to not having enough money, to disdain with Hydro Quebec and some of their projects in the north.

"Some people also believe that not paying their Hydro was part of the 'Paix des Braves'", stated Lemay.

Chief Abraham Rupert, who is handling the file, could not be reached for comment.

The rest of the Chisasibi band council either would not or could not (lack of information) comment on this issue. Neither did numerous people who refuse to pay their bill, with all refusing comment.

Canada drops to 8th on UN list

Canada has fallen from third to eighth place on a United Nations list of the most desirable countries in which to live, a further drop from the No. 1 ranking frequently touted by Prime Minister Jean Chretien as proof of the benefits of his government's policies.

Canada was No. 1 in the UN agency's Human Development Index for seven years in a row, until it was edged out by Norway

Logo

CONTEST

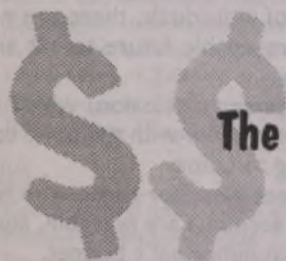
Name

The Association that will soon service the Artists and Artisans of Eeyou Istchee needs a name and a logo. We need you to send us your ideas and suggestions!

Keep in mind that the goal of the association will be to provide support and assistance for Artists and Artisans of Eeyou Istchee.

This association is the third of its kind emerging from section 28 of the JBNQA. This section provided for three associations being the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA), Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) and now an

Association for Cree Native Arts & Crafts.



The PRIZE for the winning LOGO is \$500 !!

The PRIZE for the winning NAME is \$250 !!

Send your suggestion for a name and/or logo by phone, fax, mail or email to:

**Melisa Pash
Arts & Crafts Advisor**

1100 rue de l'Escale
Val-d'Or, Qc
J9P 4G8

Phone: 819-874-4529
Fax: 819-825-2145
Email: mpash@cra.qc.ca



Deadline July 31st, 2003 !!

Be sure to include your name and co-ordinates!!



in 2001 and 2002.

The survey ranks countries on a scale based on four criteria: life expectancy, adult literacy, school enrollment and economic prosperity as measured by per capita gross domestic product.

Canada's drop in the ranking is due in part to the scales that measure poverty and the fact that the economic situation of many aboriginals has not improved, despite \$7-billion annually in federal spending.

"That is going to be part of what brings down some of our statistics. They are not going to differentiate between native and non-native but in the compilation, those [native poverty, life expectancy and education] figures obviously bring down our stats," an official said.

Under the human development index, literacy and school enrollment indices are grafted onto each other and the resulting education index gets a one-third weight. Life expectancy and GDP are also each worth a third of the overall score.

Feds to create northern business centre

The Federal Government is partnering with the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund to create a Northern Business Access Centre. The Centre for Aboriginal people in businesses is the second of its kind in Ontario.

Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault was in Thunder Bay to make the announcement last week. Nault says the new Centre makes it easier for Aboriginal entrepreneurs in the North to access information. It will also help applicants with annual work plans and budgets, assess projects and refer them to the appropriate agencies for funding.

Nault says the Business Access Centre is needed because Aboriginal people are the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurs in the country.

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund chair Gabriel Echum isn't surprised by those numbers. "We waited for people to do things for us, but that trend has changed where ourselves and the entrepreneurs are in the driver seat and going it alone."

Under the partnership, Indian Affairs transfers about \$270,000 and three employees to the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund.

Northern Ontario celebrates artists

Music and Film in Motion (MFM) is still accepting nomination submissions for the inaugural edition of the Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards Program. This year, eligible music and film artists have the opportunity to participate in the foundation of an annual event that it is hoped will be a stepping stone in the growth and development of Northern Ontario's music and film communities.

Any music or film artist who was either born in Northern Ontario or has lived in the north for at least eight consecutive months between January 1, 2001 and August 1, 2003 and has a music or film work that was or will be completed between January 1, 2001 and August 1, 2003 is eligible to be nominated for an award.

Music category submissions are currently being accepted in the following categories:

Best Album: The artist/group must meet residency requirements, but not necessarily the producer. This is awarded to the artist/group and the producer.

Best Francophone Recording: Awarded to the artist or group with the most outstanding francophone recording. This is for vocal performance only. At least 75 per cent of the tracks must be sung in the French language. The artist/group must meet residency requirements.

Best Aboriginal Recording: Awarded to the artist or group in recognition of the recording. If a group, at least 75 per cent of the members must be Aboriginal.

The artist/group must meet residency requirements. Full-length recordings, single releases, or single tracks from multi-track/multi-artist compilations of new material are eligible. In the case of multi-track/multi-artist compilations, each artist must be submitted individually and may only submit one track per compilation.

Best Songwriter: The song submitted must have been released on record during the eligibility period. On collaborations, at least one of the songwriters must meet residency requirements. Single releases or single tracks from multi-track/multi-artist compilations of new material are eligible. If the song is released on a full-length recording, a written notice identifying the specific track must accompany it.

Best Engineer: This award recognizes

excellence in the field of audio engineering for studio recordings. The individual must meet residency requirements. Submissions must include three song selections drawn from each of three different projects completed during the eligibility period, for a total of nine song samples. A written notice identifying the names of the artist/songs/album for submitted selections, a bio outlining the individual's accomplishments during the eligibility period, and a list of all artists/groups worked with during the eligibility period must also be included.

Best Film: All lengths, categories and genres of film, animated or live action, are accepted-including music videos. The producer must meet residency requirements. The award goes to the producer.

Best Director: This award recognizes excellence in film direction. The director must meet residency requirements.

Best Film Editor: This award recognizes excellence in the field of film/video editing. The individual must meet residency requirements.

Best Cinematography: This award recognizes excellence in cinematography and videography. The individual must meet residency requirements.

Best Screenplay: The screenplay must have been completed during the qualifying period. On collaborations, at least one of the screenwriters must meet residency requirements. Screenplays must be complete and conform to industry standard.

All submissions must be received at the MFM office by 5 pm, Aug. 1. For further questions about the awards program please contact Music and Film in Motion (MFM) at 674-9954 or email awards@musicandfilminmotion.com, or check the website: www.musicandfilminmotion.com.

Finalists for each category will be announced at the end of August. Winners will be announced at the awards show to be held in Sudbury, Ontario Sept. 15.

Letters Policy: All letters must be received one week previous to printing of the Nation to be considered for publication. The Nation reserves the right to edit, modify or reject letters. Letters should be addressed to the Editor in Chief. Mailing address can be found on this page near the bottom of the masthead.

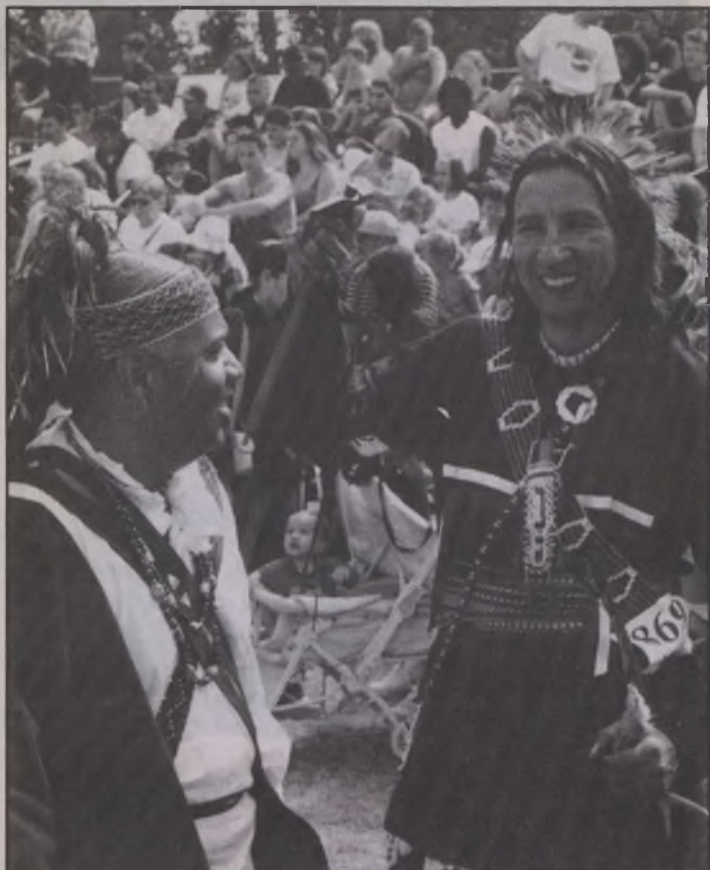
13th Annual Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow

By Will Nicholls



The Kahnawake Pow Wow is only in its 13th season and it just keeps getting bigger. Even though there was rain and the chance of rain on both days the crowd was huge. It's always fun at a pow wow to hear your name being called and see a friend you haven't seen in quite a while. By the way, for those of you who thought I had my nose in the air (to better smell all the cooking of country food, not snobbery) I called out a lot of times also with a "hey there." I tend not to use names just in case somebody has changed theirs. Just joking. I met up with an old friend from down south, a Nipmuc by the name of Star. For anyone who made to the one and only pow wow hosted by the Nation in Montreal, he was the English-speaking Master of Ceremonies. He didn't bring his coyote howl with him this time. As I called out to him he was competition dancing. As a fellow joker I said that I didn't realize that the Mohawks had lowered their standards and allowed Nipmucs in. I got the stoic Indian look with a little twinkle in his eyes. I also got a few nasty stares from the crowd that disappeared when he came over and hugged me. I hadn't seen him in a couple of years and he brought along with wife Shelly their new son and nine-year-old daughter. This why I like going to pow wows. You never know who you'll meet and renew an old friendship with.





One familiar booth was that of the *Eastern Door*. I've always wondered about why Kenneth Deer chose the Eastern Door as the name of his newspaper. For those of you who aren't familiar with it, the *Eastern Door* is the only other independent Native media rag in Quebec. It turns out that his home community of Kahnawake traces its roots from the Mohawk village of Ossernenon on the banks of the Mohawk River in New York State. By the way this was before it was called New York. Ossernenon, or Kahnawake,



as it was later called, was the Eastern Door of the Longhouse of the Five Nations. Kahnawake, in the Mohawk language means "On the Rapids" and the Kahnawake community on the St. Lawrence River traces its present day beginnings back to 1716. The things you learn at a pow wow are truly varied.

Another booth that caught my eye was the one set up by the



JOB POSTING

Job Summary

Selected candidates will be responsible for installing, repairing, replacing, modifying and maintaining telecommunications systems and equipment used by residential and business customers.

Duties

- Install, move, remove, repair, replace, modify and maintain voice and data transmission equipment in compliance with existing standards, work methods and directives.
- Organize his/her daily workload, go over assigned work tickets, establish an itinerary, contact customers and, if the job involves business facilities, sometimes provide an estimate.
- Train customers with the operation of the telecommunications equipment at the time of installation while also promoting the company's other products and services.
- Check the circuit with an appropriate test set and do preventive maintenance.
- Install cabling and wiring and make all the connections, terminations, and hook-ups needed for the equipment to operate properly.
- Define, modify, move or delete all programming parameters for the communication ports and network equipment, and update the relevant databases accordingly.
- Communicate with specialized staff in order to resolve certain difficulties and obtain or relay pertinent information.
- Handle, transport, set, adjust and use the tools, equipment, materials and vehicles needed to carry out the work, ensure their proper maintenance and keep all work sites clean. File pertinent information and keep the group's inventory up to date.
- Fill out various forms and draft reports pertaining to his/her work.
- Be available to travel, handle emergencies and meet other customer demands.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Minimum Requirements

- Secondary school degree
- Basic training in electronics
- Be willing to receive training in telecommunication equipment, installation and repair (1,800 hrs) and receive diploma.
- Proficiency in the use of computer tools
- Driver's licence and vehicle
- Bilingualism (French Cree or English Cree)
- Normal colour vision

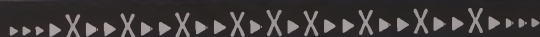
Candidate profile – Competencies/behaviour:

- Strong analytical and research skills in technical and computer-related fields
- Ability to communicate and interact effectively with customers
- Ability to represent the company in dealings with customers
- Ability to work effectively on ladders or poles
- Strong planning and organizational skills
- Courtesy and ability to work safely, precisely and quickly
- Autonomy and self-motivated

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package and are committed to the principles of employment equity.

Applicants should email their resumés to nkelly@telebec.com or mail them to the following address by August 15, 2003:

Télébec
Director general First Nations Business Relations
555, ave Centrale 1er étage
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 1P6
Tel.: 1-800-567-6485 ext.7000



Head Accountant

A professionally accredited individual is required to supervise the community's Accounting Department which is comprised of nine (9) staff members. The Accounting Department is responsible for the financial recording of the activities of the local government, and also, a local development corporation. The Accountant is responsible for the preparation of financial statements on a monthly basis, cash flow statements and financial forecasts. Working together with the Corporate Treasurer, the Accountant is involved in the preparation of annual budgets, and prepares necessary documentation for an annual audit. An essential aspect of this position is the ability to provide training to Accounting Department staff.

Location: Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec
(approx. 60 km west of Chibougamau)

Starting Date: August 2003

Salaries: Commensurate with skills and qualifications

Open until: Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Please forward all inquiries to:

Minnie Wapachee
Human Resource Development & Personnel Officer
Ouje-Bougoumou Eenuch Association
207 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec G0W 3C0

Tel: (418) 745-3911, ext 231

Fax: (418) 745-2244



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*For professional services
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La Commission scolaire de la Baie-James est fière d'être partenaire de la Commission scolaire Crie et de participer à la formation des populations autochtones vivant sur le territoire nord-québécois.

The *Commission scolaire de la Baie-James*, is proud to be a *Cree School Board's* partner and participate at the education and training for the First Nations living in Northern Quebec.

**Plusieurs formations
ont déjà été dispensées :**

- ▶ Sciage à Waswanipi;
- ▶ Tenue de livres à Chibougamau
- ▶ Boucherie à Mistissini
- ▶ Secourisme à Mistissini
- ▶ Conduite de camions à Chibougamau
- ▶ Mécanique automobile à Wemindji
- ▶ Mécanique de véhicules légers à Waskaganish
- ▶ Menuiserie-Charpenterie à Waswanipi

Several trainings have been dispensed :

- ▶ Sawing in Waswanipi
- ▶ Book-keeping in Chibougamau
- ▶ Butcher's shop in Mistissini
- ▶ First aid in Mistissini
- ▶ Truck driving in Chibougamau
- ▶ Automobile mechanics in Wemindji
- ▶ Light vehicles mechanics in Waskaganish
- ▶ Carpentry in Waswanipi

Contactez-nous ! Contact us !

(418) 748-7621, ext. 2227



Commission scolaire
de la Baie-James



people fighting diabetes in Kahnawake. Two pamphlets especially drew me. One was on tips on how to cut down on fat. They say to use less fat in cooking vegetables. You take the amount you usually use, cut it in half. Take one of the halves and cut it in half. Use one of the final halves. They also recommend cooking veggies with things like turkey parts, fresh garlic, onions, celery and bell peppers or lemon juice for a healthy flavour burst. A useful tip is to cut all extra fat from meat. Pull skin off chickens before cooking and throw it away. They also recommend broiling, boil or pan broil you meat instead of frying it. To pan broil meat you use a non-stick low-fat spray in the frying pan. Let it get medium hot. Put the meat without any more spray. Turn it often and drain the fat as it cooks. Throw the fat away. All great tips and something that is of use for everyone.



One last diabetes table recipes was a healthier Indian Fry Bread.

2 cups whole wheat flour
2 cups white flour
4 level tablespoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 cup warm water

Mix together whole wheat and white flour with baking powder and salt.

Add vegetable oil a little at a time. Use only enough to make the mixture look like corn meal.

Slowly add 1 cup warm water, only adding enough to make the dough stick together.

Roll into fist size balls and let stand in a bowl, covered by a towel for ten minutes.

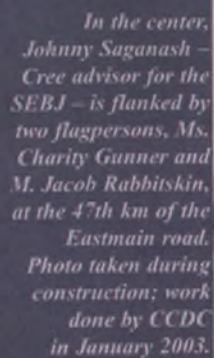
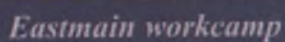
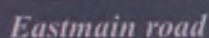
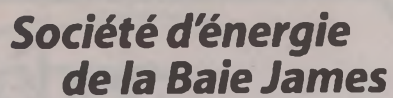
Fry in vegetable oil until golden brown on both sided.

To make into an Indian Taco put beans, shredded lettuce, tomato and cheese on top of fry bread.

The food smells I was talking about before were amazing and so was my appetite. I had a buffalo burger to begin with. Later on I added the walleye nuggets. Still feeling a little peckish, I had some pan fries. Perhaps not the healthiest of choices but once a year I allow myself to indulge.

Next year allow yourself to indulge in your own way. Whether it's meeting up with old friends, making new ones, buying native handicrafts and art, dancing, looking at dancing or just plain having fun the Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow in Kahnawake is the place to be.





Aminagement hydroélectrique de l'Eastmain-1

T

he *Société d'énergie de la Baie James* (SEBJ), a subsidiary of Hydro Quebec, is overseeing an ambitious new project as a result of the historic *'Paix des Braves'* agreement.

the project will see the revitalization of the EM-1 facility. The major components of the Eastmain-1 project are the 480-MW powerhouse and its 3 turbine-generator units, the main dam, roughly thirty dikes, a spillway, as well as a 315-KV transmission line linking the powerhouse to Nemiscau substation.

It is slated to begin in earnest this year on the temporary diversion tunnel, excavation of the powerhouse, the dam, and the dikes.

Next year, SEBJ expects that nearly 2400 workers will be based in this camp.

There will be nearly \$735 million in construction contracts and several measures have been set up to promote regional economic spin offs.

Problems have arisen in the recent year, according to Johnny Saganash, the Cree counselor for the project. The problem could not be discussed at length, but Saganash said it had to do with the proper accreditation by Quebec's standards. Lawyers are looking into it, and a decision should be forthcoming.

The Nadoshtin agreement, signed in February 2002, provides funding for job training, and work contracts. The Cree school board (CSB) had been training prospective workers, but the Commission de Construction de Quebec (CCQ) refused to recognize their credentials, so it was another set back for both the Cree work force, and the SEBJ. Thus, resulting in a decrease of the Cree workforce, which dropped from 40% to 20% this year.

Saganash hopes to get as many Cree working on the project as possible, but said that in order to be a part of it, workers must be recognized by the CCQ. There are also other variables to deal with like a harsh work schedule, living away from one's community, and adapting to a new lifestyle.

The Nemiscau substation is an old Hydro Quebec camp which will serve as a temporary camp until September, when it closes down. It currently houses 300 workers, and is a key component in getting EM-1 up and running.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Johnny Saganash at 819-672-2616, extension 3511.



Worksite Manager
René Gauthier
Chef Chantier



Temporary diversion tunnel



Cree Counsellor
Johnny Saganash
Conseiller cri





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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

PUBLIC NOTICE of RUN-OFF ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that RUN-OFF ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED for the office of
Chairperson of the Cree School Board.

DATE OF ELECTION: THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003

The general polling (election day) will be done in all locations.

ADVANCE POLL: Monday, July 28, 2003

Please note that the advance polling will only be done in the Cree communities.

The polls shall be open from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

The candidates:

- MABEL HERODIER
- WILLIAM MIANSUM

The term of office shall be for three (3) years.

The functions of the office are to be carried out on a full time basis.

The qualifications to vote in the elections are set as follows:

- a) to be a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement;
- b) to be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age or more on July 10th, 2003);
- c) not to be affected by any legal incapacity.

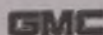
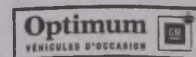
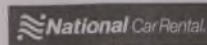
A copy of the By-laws relating to the elections is available upon request to
the Chief Returning Officer.

For more information, please contact John Henry Wapachee, Chief Returning Officer at:
Tel.: (819) 673-2182 Fax: (819) 673-2186 Email: jhwapachee@hotmail.com



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Giving Back To The River

By Roger Orr

Watchiya! As you may know, the Rupert's River is still at risk of losing its life. A group though is still out there who are working from the heart to try and save her (the river) from being extinguished. Last summer a group made up of Cree and non-natives paddled down the river to create awareness of her beauty and the true life that she provided and still provides for all species of life all around this planet. Including us.

We all know that the agreement signed by our leaders really tore a hole in many of our hearts and left us painfully wounded and confused. Well again Mother Earth can come to the rescue. All mothers show unconditional love and who knows of a better place to get comforting than that of the arms of our mother "Pikutiskwaau." Pikutiskwaau is our Cree name for our Mother Earth. Ask Robbie Matthew about Pikutiskwaau, or watch the new Cree School Board video called *Pikutiskwaau*, and you will all know the truth. I for one and many of us never even heard that ancient Cree word "Pikutiskwaau" until the video came out a little while ago and until Robbie Matthew came to our college class and explained to us the true meaning of the word. We could not help but shed tears. Paddling on one of Pikutiskwaau's veins (Rupert's River) really, really helps to bring peace and healing to one's heart because you can feel the love of your mother around and beneath you.

When I paddled down the river last summer, I felt the positive power of our natural surroundings, but around every bend, every rapid, and every calm, I also felt the power of the "other energy," "the negative one," which left me in total disbelief that anyone would sacrifice a beautiful river of this magnitude for so called progress.

In this day and age, progress is when you are able to advance forward with your beliefs, your culture, and most of all your natural surroundings intact, just the way it was meant to be. Personally, I would rather sacrifice myself today for the children of tomorrow than sacrifice the children of tomorrow for my selfish self today. What I mean by this is; in 25 years from now, scientists are predicting extreme difficulties with our water resource. Fresh, natural, pristine water will become scarce. Our children and all the animals of tomorrow will need these pristine water systems intact in order to survive. These are my grand-children and also yours. Our ancestors remind us of this time and time again that we have to take care of the earth because she takes care of us. David Suzuki from the *Nature of Things* also repeats this. This water problem does not go only for our Cree children, but for the children around the world. This is the truth.

For the paddle trip, I spent only \$100 on gas and food supplies. The funny thing was that when I was done my part of the trip, I had almost all my food left that I had bought. Almost all my nourishment came from the river. So in reality I had only spent about \$50 on supplies, and Mother Earth provided the rest. Throughout our paddle, we would just scoop the water from the river and drink it to quench our thirst. This is almost one of our last rivers we can do this from in "Iiyuuuschii" (James Bay Cree land). Being able to scoop water directly from a river and drinking it is becoming so rare that the people who live in the south are shocked to see us just scooping the water and drinking it. They ask us in total disbelief "You can do that???" Leaving us to question what the water situations like where they come from. "It must be pretty bad down there hunh?" Also we would just

cast fishing lures out to catch our lunches and suppers. The fish in the Rupert's River are awesome. The fish species in the river system include sacred prehistoric sturgeon, speckle trout, lake trout, walleye, pike, white fish, suckers, burbot, and many other smaller species of fish. The water, the fish, the plant life, and the tiny little organisms provide life for every living species on this planet. The river is pure and toxic free right from the heart of Mistissini Lake, all the way down to Waskaganish, James Bay. We can't destroy that. Destroy this; destroy us and everything else with it. Bottom Line.

We will be paddling down the Rupert's River again this summer with the Rupert River Reverence in order to save the river from being dammed and diverted, or even to at least say that we are taking a stand and that we will be able to tell our children we did so. Whatever results come out of our stand, I know it will all be positive, whether we save the river or not. We are doing what our hearts tell us and what our ancestors have been telling us since time immemorial. I have total faith in this. Could it be that they (our leaders) were led to this desperate situation (AIP) because they have not been listening to our grass roots people or to people who were honest about our dysfunctional situations, but to others (consultants, lawyers) who have no idea what it's truly like to be in the reserves living constantly in the clutches of the government and their prideless handouts? Anyway, back to the river. So again, we will be paddling down the river and if any of you out there are willing to tag along and support the cause or even just to go on a beautiful vacation for a week or two you are most welcome. Remember, it's from the heart and we need to give back to the river or "Pikutiskwaau" if you like. We owe it to her.

Another thing I would like to mention is that you don't have to join the group right from the beginning of the trip. For those of you who just don't have the time to paddle the whole journey but really want to take part or show you care, you can join at different legs of the journey.

The beginning of the journey starts from the route du nord down to Waskaganish. The following mini chart will show the different legs you can join from and the approximate amount of days it takes to travel. Weather and maybe a few mishaps can account for delays, which is okay. It's natural.

Route du nord - Waskaganish: 10 to 12 days.

Old Nemaska - Waskaganish: 7 - 8 days.

Rupert River Bridge - Waskaganish: 4 - 5 days.

Smokey hills - Waskaganish: 1 day.

Departure from Lac Mez gouze Km 221 route du nord July 26 03. Arrival at km 238 route du nord July 30-31 - Freddy Jolly's camp. Arrival and stay at old Nemaska August 6-8 then depart. Arrival at Rupert River bridge to Km 257 James Bay Highway, August 10-12 Then depart for Waskaganish and arrive at Waskaganish August 18, 19. Remember you can join from Smoky Hills for the day to Waskaganish.

If you would like more information just punch in Rupert River Reverence on the web and there you have it, or www.actiplan@sympatico.ca. You can also call Eric Gagnon, Lindy Moar, Freddy Jolly, Lisa Petagumskum, and myself for updates on the departure date. Hope to see you there.



RE-ELECT

Mabel Herodier

for Chairwoman of Cree School Board

The strength of the past three years has been to bring about a genuine focus on the students. Now, everything must be judged on whether it is good for our students!

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST THREE (3) YEARS!

"Students first, every time!" This is now the reality in the Board: everything we do must directly benefit the student. Here are some good examples.

Implementing the CSB educational "reforms": These reforms are "student centered". Teachers are using new and creative approaches to ensure that each child is learning, based on the interests and abilities of the child. We are even starting to do this in the Continuing Education classes.

Students use "projects" and work in teams to help them learn a number of different skills. Parents receive "progress reports" that give a useful "description" of how, and what, their child is learning. Parents also see their child's "portfolio". The portfolio includes many examples of what things their child has done, and learned.

New "Coaching Program" for new teachers: It's difficult for new teachers to enter into our communities and be successful. It is even difficult for Cree teachers. The Principals asked for a program to help these new teachers be successful, right from the start. Experienced "expert" teachers are selected and trained to help coach the new teachers. We will now expand this new program to all schools.

Learning about teaching Cree! We know that a lot of excellent things have been done to help assure that our children are learning their own language, and learning it well. We also know that we still have things to learn about how to best do this.

Last year we started two research projects to help us teach Cree better. One involves experts from outside. We asked them to find out why children who learn their own language first tend to do better in learning a second language. They also tend to learn other subjects better.

We also started a **"community consultation"** about the Cree Language of Instruction Program (CLIP). We need to know what the parents and Elders and teachers think about the CLIP. We want to know where they want to see improvements.

New Vocational Education Program for Youth Sector: The Minister of Education (Quebec), and the Cree School Board have approved a first ever vocational education certificate program for trapping and hunting. This provides a new, accredited option for some of our Youth.

Challenging goals for Student Success! For the first time, we have set very challenging goals to track our ability to help our students succeed. We accepted a recommendation from the Principals that we must:

- Double the success rate of our students to achieve a 30% graduation rate by 2007, and
- Double it again to a minimum 60% graduation rate by 2009.

New "student-driven" budget guidelines: In the past two years we introduced what we call "pedagogically-driven budgeting". With the Principals, Education Services and the Finance Department, we set new guidelines for approving money. Now, every dollar spent in the Board must be proven to be for the benefit of our students. This has greatly increased the accountability of our planning and budget process. It has also shown that we need a lot more money to be really successful.

New plans for Continuing Education! We are very pleased to have the **new Cree Regional Vocational Training Centre** approved, and under development for the Fall, 2005, in Waswanipi. This Centre will develop our students who want to learn trades and skills that will be invaluable for them with the many new opportunities opening up in the Cree territory. And for those that have found abilities and interests in these areas of education— we will bring the training to them in a Cree community.

We also have developed and approved some ambitious plans to improve the learning environment for all our adult students. They will see many improvements in the next three years, and we expect to see many more adult students.

And, we are partners in the Apatisiwiin Agreement to develop up to 150 Cree adults to take on good paying technical jobs with Hydro Quebec, on our Territory.

Those are some of the things the whole Board has worked together, as a Team, to accomplish.

THERE IS NO "QUICK FIX" TO IMPROVING EDUCATION!

Having worked on these types of improvements for the past three years, the Commissioners, the Management, the Principals and the Teachers are all in agreement that there is no "quick and easy" way to improve our education.

I believe we have put in place responsible improvements at the regional level. This provides a better base on which to build, and to support the local communities. Now, it is time to provide much more support at the local level, to teachers, Principals and Vice Principals, and to Parents and community leaders.

A "local partnership for education" is what I believe we need to work on during the next three years. A number of things are already planned.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE (3) YEARS:

"Local Partnership for Education"

Help the Local School Committees and the Local Steering Teams: We need to help each community develop the means to take more control over the education of their children.

We will provide much more assistance to the School Committees and the Local Steering Teams (LST) to help them develop their own Local Education Plan for their community.

The LST is comprised of parents, teachers, Band Council members, experts, concerned community members and youth. The Team works with the School Committee to help develop goals, guidelines and a framework plan to address the educational concerns of its community. The Cree School Board will provide more resources and training at the local level to help both the School Committees and the LST.

Improve the recruitment and orientation of qualified teachers: We have already approved plans to further improve our Cree Teacher Trainee Program. We need good quality Cree teachers, and a lot of them!

We also plan to strengthen our recruitment and orientation of new teachers. We still need good teachers from the South, and we need to give them a good orientation when they arrive. We will also continue and expand the Coaching Program for New Teachers.

Strengthen our knowledge and use of the Cree Language: A group of very committed women from the Board has initiated a project to help make us more aware of the dangers we face in losing our Cree language. They are concerned that we are only talking, but not really doing anything about it. All of these women are Kukuums, and the project has been called "The Kukuum's Project". I am fully committed to their project, and I will personally commit that the project will receive the direct sponsorship of the Chairperson of the Board.

THE 2004 MEQ NEGOTIATIONS

In 2004, we will negotiate another long term funding agreement with the Ministry of Education – Quebec (MEQ). We have never had such a good understanding of the real cost of providing a good education for all our students. We still have a lot of preparations to do, but we have knowledgeable people to do this work and handle our negotiations. My commitment is to negotiate an agreement that reflects the real cost of successfully educating our children.

MY COMMITMENT!

The Cree School Board has been growing much stronger and much more focused over these past three years. Many have been working very hard to make "students first, every time" – from the teachers, Vice Principals, CEA's and Principals, to the Directors in our head offices, to our dedicated Commissioners. All of them genuinely share this commitment! And, they have achieved most of this by working in teams! We accomplish much more when we share our expertise and dedication.

I think we are a model of good teamwork, and responsible organization in the Cree Nation, even though we still have a lot to learn and accomplish.

This has been the biggest achievement of the past three years. I am committed to continuing our CSB Reform. I am also determined to bring more resources and assistance to the local level, to support the parents and communities.

We are ready to build at the community level even stronger and more responsive educational systems, for the success of our Students!





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PRESENTS

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***The first 100 participants will receive a FREE conference bag**



Waswanipi First Nation

Cree Nation Youth Council



O.J. Toxic Study drags on until September

BY
Lyle Stewart

Results of a year-long health study into toxic contamination of Ouje-Bougoumou residents will be released at a public meeting Sept. 3.

The study was lead by Dr. Evert Nieboer, a toxicology professor at McMaster University. Nieboer says the data from the testing – which began almost a year ago – is being currently being combined. “We still need to interpret them. We’re trying to relate things to lifestyle and consumption of food items.”

Nieboer says that some results have already been sent to participants in the study, which included 200 residents of Ouje-Bougoumou and 100 more from other Cree communities as a test control group. They provided information on dietary habits and biological samples that were tested for contaminants such as arsenic and cadmium.

“It’s a huge study with lots of data,” says Nieboer. “We want them to make sense.”

But Nieboer doesn’t want to talk details until the study results are revealed at a community meeting Sept. 3. “I’m bound by ethics not to go into them [until the community is made fully aware].”

Nieboer will make a series of recommendations and offer advice in conjunction with input from the Cree Public Health

Board and the Quebec government.

“We’re on target,” he says of the year-long study. Overall, he says he is “quite encouraged. There are some concerns, which we will address appropriately.”

The New Hampshire geologist first raised concerns of contamination of the food supply with toxic heavy metals by the local mining industry. He sampled mine tailings, fish and human hair, finding worrying levels of arsenic, copper and zinc.

Covel questions the length of time the study has taken. “At most it should have taken six weeks to get that data,” he says. “It makes me awful suspicious.”

He believes there is political influence from the mining companies playing heavily on the process. “The mining companies carry too much political weight in Quebec. And there is a conflict of interest whenever the government has investments in mining companies.”

In the U.S., he says, the mine at Lac Chibougamau would have caused a scandal, and been declared an environmental disaster with appropriate cleanup efforts ordered immediately.

“But here we are three years after the contamination was first discovered and we’re still talking. Nothing’s been done.”

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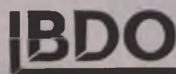
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First time out alone

Xavier Kataquapit

As children my younger brothers and I were taken on many boat trips over the years. Our education on the water started very early and we all learned how to operate a boat on the Attawapiskat River and out on the great James Bay. We understood that this kind of travel could be relatively safe in the calm steady waters of the river but much more dangerous in the open water of the bay.

I was 17 when I approached my dad Marius to ask for permission to head out on my first boat trip alone. I had a lot of experience as I had taken the controls of my dad's boat under his supervision several times and I had piloted our family along the river on trips home from the bay. He had grown confident in my skills but still he cautioned me to travel no further than the river. He did not want me to challenge myself by going out into the treacherous salt water bay. He suggested that I take someone along on my first trip. My younger brother Paul was eager to go and I also asked our mutual friend Eli to join us.

I agreed with dad that we would make this an overnight trip and that we would camp near the mouth of the river. He gave us the choice of an 18 foot or a 24 foot freighter canoe. I knew that a larger boat would be a challenge to move around with three teenagers and so I decided on the small 18 foot freighter canoe. I also chose my dad's light 15 horsepower motor to power us. We packed up some small amounts of supplies and food for an overnight stay, as well as a nylon tent and sleeping bags and plenty of plastic tarp. In a short time we were ready to head out.

I piloted our canoe out onto the river, following the same routes that my dad and my older brothers had taken me hundreds of times before. They had pointed out water hazards for me and my younger brothers to memorize so we could choose the safest passage on the water.

We brought our small gauge shotguns with us with the plan of doing some bird hunting on the open tundra by the bay. Our ride was slow but steady. It was a big change from the powerful 30 and 40 horsepower motors we regularly travelled in with our families. The small and narrow frame of the boat also added to a different feel in our short trip to the bay. We were happy to be out in the fresh air and felt some freedom in doing this trip on our own without older relatives to guide us.

In the afternoon, the sky clouded over to create a grey ceiling. It was not a dangerous situation as the winds were light. A slight drizzle made our trip a little uncomfortable. We approached shore and floated on the water trying to spot ducks or geese by the bay. We did not really try very hard to find anything. Just being on this trip on our own was enough of an adventure for all of us. The rainy weather we were experiencing made us consider canceling our overnight stay but later that evening the rain stopped.

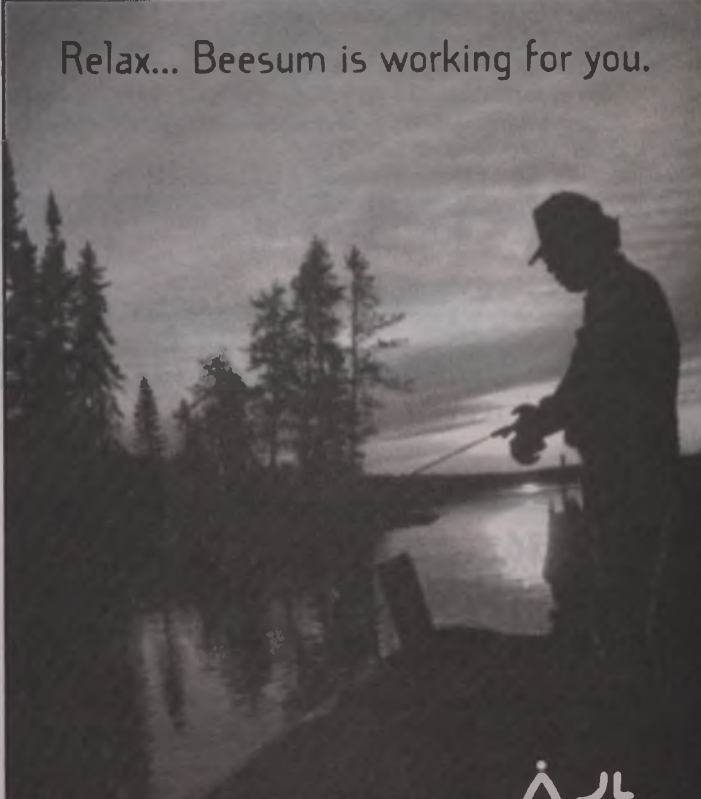
The decision was made to stay out over night. We parked our boat on a muddy shore at low tide and tied a long line to some bushes on land. In the dull light of evening we debated on whether or not we should set up a tent on the open tundra where we stopped. It was a warm summer evening and there was a breeze that blew all the mosquitos and biting insects away. We scanned

the clouds and took that chance that it might not rain again. We spread out our plastic tarps on the ground and opted to sleep out in the open.

In the dark we slept by a fire we lit for warmth and to cook our meal of hot dogs and a pot of tea. In the dying light of the fire, the clear sky was filled with bright stars that lit up our surroundings in a blue glow. As we lay on our backs searching the stars we talked and laughed about the day's adventure. Every once in a while one of us would point out slow moving satellites in the sky and bright flashes of meteors entering the atmosphere. The fresh air and long day out on the land pulled us into a deep restful sleep.


In the morning, the clouds were back and we woke up to a slight drizzle. It felt good to wake with the soft drops of rain on our faces. We decided to head back to town. As we approached the community we felt like triumphant hunters or fishermen coming back from a long trip out on the land. The rain fell steadily on our heads as we rode past the high banks of the community and a few Elders looked down on us from the top. They nodded their heads approvingly and I imagined that they might be recalling their first solo adventure on the river. We felt very proud of ourselves and we headed home with the exciting news of our trip hot on our lips and fresh in our minds.

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101 - BIRTHDAYS

I would like to shout out A VERY HAPPY 20th BIRTHDAY to my sister Heather on July 20th. I love you Heather, and I hope your birthday will be the beginning of a year of happiness and success. Celebrate And Be Happy...You Deserve It! Love Always your sister Hill :) (Hillory)

First of all I would like to say Happy Birthday to my cool cousin Tyrone Blackned on July 9, 2003. Happy Birthday cuz, Enjoy your day!!!! From your little cousin Craydon Corson Rylie. P.S: Don't party too much cuz (jk).... LOL

We would like to say a Happy Belated Birthday to my sister-in-law that live in 115 River Side Street in mistissini, Her Birthday is on July 18th, 2003 and we wish all the best. Once again "HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY " From: S.M.S. & E.S

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH A HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO MY BROTHER "CHARLIE. M. SHECAPIO" FROM MISTISSINI, HIS BIRTHDAY IS ON JULY 17TH, 2003. BOY YOU KNOW THAT I REALLY LOVE YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HEAR ME SAY THIS TO YOU, BUT I DO LOVE YOU CAUSE YOU ARE MY BABY BORTHER, AND I MISS YOU ALOT, EVERYDAY I THINK ABOUT YOU. AND I THANK GOD FOR GAVING ME A BORTHER LIKE YOU THAT'S LOVING CARING, AND SOMETIMES YOU LIKE TO BUG US WHEN WE WATCH T.V. AND ONCE AGAIN "HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY" TO YOU MY BROTHER CHARLIE. FROM: YOUR SISTER WHO REALLY LOVES YOU ALOT S.M.S.

We would like to say a Happy Belated Birthday to my nephew George-Micheal Matoush On July 15th, 2003. Once again HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY. And i hope you had fun on your birthday. & we miss you alot!!! Fr: S.M.S & E.S (wemindji) xoxoxo

We want to wish a Happy 22nd Birthday to Natacha Shelley Moar Wapachee from Nemaska on June

30, 2003. Remember you're a very special person in our lives and we adore so much the little girls which the lord our maker gaved you, two little girls Brandy and Edith Moojou and googoo's adorable girls. And take good care of them, just how we took care of you when you were a little girl. We wish you the best in what the future holds and maybe you'll have what you wished for "many children". From Linda & William Moar, Nemaska.

I would like to send B'Day greetings to my son Eric Enosse who's birthday is on July 23rd. I hope you enjoyed your day, because you deserve to be happy. Sorry I couldn't be there, but I'm thinking of you on your Special Day. With all my love and a whole lot more. Your Mom, Pearl XOXO

I would like to wish my aunt Laura Whiskeychan a Happy B'Day. She celebrates her birthday on July 23rd. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! From your great niece, Pearl.

Happy Birthday 'Enomey Masty' on August 5th and much health and happiness with your soon to be born love child. Congratulations to the best son in law in the world, Charlie Angituguluk. From Mom and Claude.

This goes out to the prettiest girl in OJ, Andree-Ann. You know girl, if I could give you the whole world, I would. If I had a million dollars, I'd buy you everything you've ever dreamed of. If I could fly, I'd take you to the land of paradise, just to show you that you've caught my eye. If I could climb the highest mountains, swim the deepest sea, or even steal a star down from the sky, I would. You are every person's desire, you have a smile that melts hearts on fire and I love you girl. Hope you have a wonderful birthday on July 27th. All my love, from someone at 67B Opataca Meskino. PS: Don't worry; you'll get your white dress...

There are times in your life when you wait for a certain moment, a moment that everything in the world just disappears and suddenly your life has a meaning. You wait patiently for that touch that you

have been waiting for and the kiss you want to tell your children someday. This is the moment where tingles run down your spine and they leave you breathless. My Cancerian, words can't express of what I am feeling right now, but let me just say; you are the one that I have been waiting for all my life. You give my life a meaning, and you make me 'Fly without wings'. I love you with everything that I am, and I can't wait to spend my life with you. (I love you... 2x more... squared... cubed... infinity + 2) PS: Happy Birthday on July 4th!

I would like to wish a Happy 24th Birthday to a wonderful man in my life, my husband Sinclair R. Neeposh Jr. on July 27th. I want you to know just how much you've brought beauty and so much love into my life. I thank God that I've found you, I would be lost without you, I wouldn't have a life without you in it. Hope

your day will be beautiful as your love is. Happy 24th Birthday Sinclair. Love always, your loving wife, Melanie Gull-Neeposh xoxoxo Waswanipi

We want to wish a Happy 24th Birthday to our Daddy Sinclair Neeposh, on July 27th. Daddy, we want you to know just how much hard work you've done for us to be healthy and to grow well. Thank you for always being there for us. We love you with all our little hearts. Love always, your children, Starr, Serena & Selena Neeposh xoxoxo Waswanipi

I want to send a Special Birthday wish to my ten year old warrior, Johnny Albert Mianscum on July 24th 2003 at 5:30am. Always remember that I love you and I will always wish that you can count your numbers backward instead of going up. I will always miss those small little arms that use to go around my neck, the only difference now is that the arms are get-

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ting bigger and bigger. I don't mind though because I know the Love between a mother and a child is very strong. I love you babe. Love, Mom, Casey & Amanda xoxoxo

Happy 4th Birthday to a really sweet little girl, Nikita Tameira Sunshine on July 28th 2003. We can't believe you'll be going to school now, that means you're a big girl. We love you so much. From Anita, Harvey and Nicole xoxoxo

Birthday wishes going out to a special boy whose birthday was on May 13th. We want you to know how lucky we feel to have you in our lives. Happy 6th Birthday Dakota. We are sorry we couldn't be there for you on your day but your wish came true, you were given a baby brother just a couple hours before your birthday. It would've been extra special if you guys shared the same day, anyway you were very much in our thoughts that day. Hope you celebrate more birthdays with brother Brady. We love you and treasure you in our hearts. Love, Mom, Dad and baby brother Brady. Xoxoxo

Happy Birthday to my sister Sandra Mayappo on May 5th 2003. Just a few words to tell you how fortunate I feel to have you as my sister, my friend, someone I can count on, someone who believes in me and stand by me when things seem impossible. We seem to be able to tell each other almost anything and laugh at nothing and cry over everything. I want you to know how much I appreciate the closeness between us, how much it means to be able to share so much with you. Last but not least, thank you for all your help, love and support to me and my children. Love always, sister Charlene.

Happy Birthday to my dear mother Edna Mayappo on June 4th. It is such a blessing to have you as my Mom, with so many wonderful qualities. Qualities I admire, your warmth and goodness, your kindness and best of all the loving spirit you always share with others. May the Good Lord watch over you on your birthday and for always. Also Happy

Mother's Day to you on May 11th. Love, daughter Charlene.

Birthday wishes going out to my favorite person, my aunt and namesake Sandra on May 5th. Although sometimes I drive you nuts, all I ask of you is be patient with me, I'm still learning. Encourage my efforts to do things even when I do not do them very well, however foolish they may seem to you. It means a lot to have you in my life and I love you more than I could ever tell you. Love, nephew Dakota. PS: Thanks for the birthday gift.

I want to wish my nephew Aiden 'Doo-Yan' Rupert a very Happy Birthday on July 24th. Happy 6th Birthday and many more to come. With lots of kisses and hugs from your auntie in Whapmagostui,

104 - GRADUATIONS

We would like to congratulate my sister in law, Glorianna Neeposh on her High School Graduation at the Willie J. Happyjack Memorial School on August 8th 2003. Hey girl, you did it! I am so proud of you! Keep reaching for your goals. Congratulations! Remember take good care of yourself when you leave for college, aight girl? God Bless you. Love always, your brother & sis in law: Sinclair, Melanie, Starr, Serena & Selena Neeposh xoxoxo Waswanipi

Congratulations to my son Dakota Mayappo on his kindergarten graduation on June 24th 2003. I may not always remember to say how proud I am of you. I'm proud of your successes, of your skills and talent, of your hard work and accomplishments, of your dreams and plans for the future. Yet even more important than these, I'm proud of the person you are inside and I promise I'll guide you and see you as the unique and wonderful person you are, with gifts and talents. And I hope you continue making me proud. Once again, Congratulations and love always, Mom Chalene xoxoxo

Congratulations to Stella Jane Snowboy on her graduation day on June 27th 2003 in Eastmain. Keep on following your dreams. In friendship, Charlene.



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300 - PERSONALS

Greetings from Canadore in North Bay! Hope you're enjoying your families and friends this summer. Have a safe and fun time and I hope to see you in the fall. Charlie is away this year and Roger Chum is filling the gap to help you next year. We miss you and if you graduated, please come back to say Hello. Liz Dowdall/Aboriginal Learning Unit

My son - When you came in this world I knew my life was going to change for the better. I knew I had to change my ways for you to have a better life. I tried my best to quit my bad habits. I conquered most of them, but you got to understand that nobody's perfect. Even though you're only 9 months old, I'm still writing this letter to you so you can read it when you're older. Understand that I love you very much. The one thing I thought I would never have in this world is a baby, especially a baby boy like you. You are very special, one of a

kind. When I'm not with you, even for a couple of days, I miss you. It seems like I think of you every minute when I'm not with you. I know you are going to make a mark in this world, I just hope I'm going to be there to see it. Your loving Daddy Raymond...

We want to wish a Happy Father's Day to our Daddy Greg Mark-Stewart. Love, your boys, Dakota and Brandy.

To all the ladies working at the childcare center in Eastmain. Thank you all for all the love and care I received during my stay at the center. Thank you for your generosity and patience for showing me by your example how big things are accomplished a little at a time. Now that I'm on my own, this long journey ahead of me, I may not remember much of what we did together, what we played together, what we learned together, but one thing I'll take with me in this journey is a lifetime of learning. Love, Dakota.

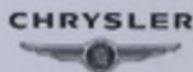


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